



STATE OF WASHINGTON
WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
1102 SE Quince Street • PO Box 47990
Olympia, Washington 98504-7990

March 10, 2004

TO: Washington State Board of Health Members

FROM: Dr. Tom Locke, Board Member

RE: MAKING PROVISIONALLY NOTIFIABLE CONDITIONS PERMANENT

Background and Summary:

In 2000, the Board revised the notifiable conditions rule and established a distinct chapter, chapter 246-101 WAC. As part of this process the Board established new procedures under which the state health officer may declare a condition to be provisionally notifiable. Those procedures are contained in WAC 246-101-015 (see attached). This section requires the Department of Health to issue a report within 40 months of declaring a condition provisionally notifiable, and describes the expected content of the report.

WAC 246-101-015 also specifies that eight conditions are provisionally notifiable by rule through August 2004. These are autism, cerebral palsy, fetal alcohol syndrome/fetal alcohol effects, newly diagnosed cases and previously unreported prevalent cases of hepatitis B and hepatitis C, initial genital infection with herpes simplex, invasive Group A streptococcus, and abdominal wall birth defects. While the Board declared that these conditions were provisional by the rule and the reporting requirement is specific to declarations by the state health officer, the Department has nevertheless completed the report envisioned by the Board (see attached).

At this time the Department is recommending that the Board consider making all but one of these conditions permanently reportable (invasive Group A streptococcus would be allowed to sunset). To make the necessary changes to chapter 246-101 before the provisional reporting requirements expire in August, we would need to begin the rule making process fairly quickly. I have asked Yoram Bauman, the DOH economist, to discuss the report today. With the Board's agreement, I would like to ask the acting executive director to sign a CR-101 to initiate rule making.

Recommended Board Action:

The Board directs the executive director to sign a CR-101 indicating the Board's intent to consider adding one or more provisionally notifiable conditions to the list of permanently notifiable conditions in chapter 246-101 WAC.

Attachments